

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 181020Z JAN 77
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5497
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORNE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS SF PINT
SUBJECT: SSRC LEADERS FLEE TO BOTSWANA

1. THE LAST REMAINING CADRE OF RIGINAL SSRC (SOWETO STUDENTS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL) LEADERS HAS APPARENTLY FLED OVER THE WEEKEND TO BOTSWANA, LINKING UP WITH TSIETSI MASHININI AND OTHER REFUGEES FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE. KHOTSO SEATLHOLO, MICKEY TSAGAE, AND MAJAKATHATA SIMON MOKOENA WERE IDENTIFIED AS JOINING MASHININI IN GABORONE, EFFECTIVELY ELIMINATING THE ORIGINAL LEADERSHIP OF THE SSRC FROM SOWETO.

2. THERE HAS BEEN SOME QUESTION AS TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS LEADERSHIP, PARTICULARLY ABOUT SEATLHOLO'S
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ABILITY TO DIRECT THE STUDENT ORGANIZATION. HIS DEPARTURE PROBABLY SIGNIFIES THE COLLAPSE OF THE ORIGINAL STUDENT RESISTANCE, ALTHOUGH THERE CERTAINLY WILL BE OTHERS WILLING TO TAKE UP THE CAUS IN HIS ABSENCE.

3. SEATLHOLO CLAIMED STUDENTS STILL WOULD NOT WRITE EXAMS, ALTHOUGH CLASSES ARE RETURNING TO NORMAL. SEATLHOLO

PLACED THE BLAME FOR THE REJECTION OF THE SSRC BOYCOTT
CALL ON "CERTAIN SCHOOL TEACHERS WHO ISSUED PRESS STATE-
MENTS TO THAT EFFECT." THIS IS CLEARLY DIRECTED AT
WILKIE KAMBULE, HEADMASTER OF ORLANDO HIGH SCHOOL WHO
URGED STUDENTS TO RETURN TO CLASSES.

4. COMMENT: WHILE THE SITUATION CONTINUES MUDDLED, IT
APPEARS FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE THAT SEATLHOLO AND THE OTHERS
SAW THE SSRC LOSING CREDIBILITY AND GRABBED THE OPPORTUNITY
TO FLEE THE COUNTRY BEFORE THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE MANAGED
TO CORNER THEM. A SOURCE HAS TOLD US THAT SEATLHOLO LOVED
THE ATTENTION HE WAS RECEIVING WHILE HEAD OF THE STUDENTS'
COUNCIL AND WAS MORE OF A ROMANTIC THAN A
REVOLUTIONARY. THIS MAY EXPLAIN HIS DECISION TO SEEK REFUGE
WHEN THE GOING GOT TOUGH.
JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

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